GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2845
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH- EAST TRADE
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Region having abundant natural resource and favourable Geographical condition have the potential to emerge as the Centre for trade and commerce for the South East Asia countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to tap and exploit this potential fully;

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn in this regard; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) : Yes Sir.

(b) to (d): The Central Government has taken specific steps to promote trade and investment in the North Eastern Region with its neighbouring countries. A minimum of 10% of the budgetary provision of various schemes of the Department of Commerce are earmarked for the development of trade related infrastructure in the North - East. The Department of Commerce has set up an Export Development Fund (EDF) under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities (ASIDE) scheme with the objective of using the resources for the development of exports from the North Eastern Region. Under the Export Development Fund Scheme, an amount of Rs. 23.52 crore has been released for 37 projects. The Union Government through the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region sanctions and funds development projects through Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). So far, 646 projects costing Rs. 4001.01 crore have been sanctioned under NLCPR. Against this, till February 2005, Rs. 2979.88 crore have been released since the operationalisation of NLCPR from 1998-99. All projects under NLCPR are infrastructure development projects.